



**PHA Newsletter: March 2023**

*News from HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing sent to PHA Executive Directors*

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## **SYSTEM INNOVATION**

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Welcome to HUD's monthly progress update on the implementation of technology modernization and system changes. In 2023, we are launching major system innovations to improve our technology infrastructure. These modernized systems will improve our user experience, payment accuracy, and cybersecurity. They will reduce staff time and increase efficiency. We want to ensure PHAs understand these changes, and we are committed to ensuring agencies can transition from existing systems.

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### **Housing Information Portal**

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The new Housing Information Portal (HIP) system will replace and enhance the functionality currently performed by IMS/PIC, while reducing the administrative burden on PHAs for providing information to HUD through a new form/data submission mechanism utilizing the PHA's own software interface.

For small PHAs that currently use the HUD Family Reporting Software (FRS), HUD is developing an FRS replacement that will be a fillable form as part of HIP. This will eliminate the need for PHAs to install the software on their local computer.

Also, HUD continues to work with software vendors to finalize the technical specifications needed to be able to connect to HIP. The software vendors will nominate PHAs as early adopters, with priority to MTW Expansion PHAs who rely on the HUD-50058 MTW Expansion functionality in HIP. The software vendors will let HUD know when they are ready to interface with HIP and roll out their software to their clients.

Learn more about HIP on the [Housing Information Portal page](#). Please note that the link to this page recently changed! PHAs can email general questions to [PIH\\_HIP@hud.gov](mailto:PIH_HIP@hud.gov).

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### **Operating Fund Web Portal**

HUD has launched a new module in the Operating Fund Web Portal (OpFund Web Portal), replacing the Excel-based HUD-52723 and HUD-52722 forms with web-based forms.

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The new module has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from PHAs. PHAs will notice improved collaboration with HUD Field Offices, with both parties able to review the online forms at the same time. The module improves HUD's transparency with Operating Fund data and provides PHAs with real-time information on the status of their Operating Fund submissions and any changes to their requested Operating Fund eligibility.

HUD is continuing to provide robust user support through regular virtual sessions to provide interactive training and a live open forum to address questions. The Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) Technical Assistance Center is ready to help PHA users with access and web portal issues. Local HUD Field Offices are also available to provide technical assistance and guidance to PHA users. If you have questions, please send an email to [opfundwebportal@hud.gov](mailto:opfundwebportal@hud.gov).

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### **Enterprise Voucher Management System**

The Enterprise Voucher Management System (eVMS) will improve how HUD records monthly voucher performance and calculates program payments, increasing payment accuracy.

HUD is currently addressing a technical issue that must be resolved before PHA onboarding starts. An updated timeline with next steps is forthcoming. In the meantime, PHAs can continue to prepare for eVMS by submitting timely and accurate PIC (50058) submissions, including resolving outstanding errors identified in HUD's [PIC Error Dashboard](#). Thank you for your patience and support as our team works to modernize the HCV payment process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [askevms@hud.gov](mailto:askevms@hud.gov).

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## **PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM**

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### **Agency Priority Goal: Public Housing Occupancy**

One of HUD's priorities is to maximize the reach of HUD's rental assistance programs by increasing the number of public housing units that are occupied. To track progress in this effort, HUD has an Agency Priority Goal of increasing the national public housing occupancy rate to 96% by September 30, 2023. The current occupancy rate is 94.6%. We encourage you to take advantage of occupancy resources for PHAs, including the [PHA Occupancy Webinar Series](#), which provides information related to HUD occupancy regulations and essential tips for increasing occupancy and improving agency operations. If you missed past webinars in the series, recordings are now available on HUD Exchange at the link above.

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### **Repositioning Opportunities**

*Wednesday Webinar Series: Rental Assistance Demonstration Updates*

March 29, 2023 | 1:00-3:00 PM ET

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[Registration coming soon!](#)

HUD continues to offer webinars that address questions in the public housing repositioning process. The March webinar will provide the latest information on RAD, followed by participant questions and answers from experts. Previous webinars are archived on the [webinar series page](#).

#### *Repositioning Panel Calls*

HUD also offers Repositioning Panel Calls for PHAs to discuss their individual portfolios and explore available repositioning options. These calls include subject matter experts from the Special Application Center and Housing's Office of Recapitalization. Please contact your [local Field Office](#) if you'd like to schedule a panel call.

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### **Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act Resources**

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, the Final Rule implementing Sections 102, 103, and 104 of the Housing Opportunity through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA) was officially [published in the Federal Register](#). The Final Rule updates regulations regarding the household income and asset calculations, are intended to help residents, and reduce the administrative burden for PHAs.

PHAs have until January 1, 2024 to implement the broader income and asset changes in Sections 102 and 104, but for PHAs that administer the Public Housing program, the rule includes **new Public Housing over-income provisions in Section 103 that become effective March 16, 2023**. If you have questions, please email [HOTMAquestions@hud.gov](mailto:HOTMAquestions@hud.gov). You can also visit the [HOTMA Resources webpage](#), where you will find [Final Rule Highlights](#) and [FAQs](#).

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### **HOTMA Training Series**

The HOTMA Income and Assets Training Series covers changes resulting from the HOTMA Final Rule implementing Sections 102, 103, and 104. The trainings for PHAs with Public Housing and/or HCV Programs will cover changes to income reviews and asset limits (Sections 102 and 104), which go into effect on January 1, 2024.

Registration for the upcoming trainings below will soon be available [here](#).

- Implementation of Section 102 & 104 – Part 1 | May 9, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET
  - Implementation of Section 102 & 104 – Part 2 | May 16, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET
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### **April Deadline for CARES Act Supplemental Operating Fund Close-Out Procedures**

As a reminder, per [PIH Notice 2022-35](#), PHAs must liquidate all CARES Act obligations no later than April 30, 2023. PHAs reporting unliquidated obligations that have been incurred, but not yet paid, have until April 30, 2023 to submit the required SF-425 reporting on the status of their CARES Act Supplemental Operating Subsidy as of December 31, 2022. Refer questions to your [local Field Office](#).

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## May Deadline for Energy Performance Contract Measurement & Verification Reports

[PIH Notice 2011-36](#) and Energy Performance Contract (EPC) approval letters require PHAs to submit Measurement & Verification (M&V) reports to HUD for their EPC each year. PHAs with EPCs have until **May 1, 2023** to submit M&V reports to their Field Office. Refer questions to your [local Field Office](#).

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## Highlights of the NSPIRE Get Ready

REAC presented the [NSPIRE Get Ready Series](#) in 15 cities across the country to more than 2,000 attendees. At these sessions, REAC described the new physical inspection standards that are designed to prioritize residents' health and safety. In collaboration with public housing authorities, multifamily property owners and agents, residents, field offices, inspectors, other industry representatives, REAC clarified how NSPIRE is aligning multiple HUD programs to one set of standards. [View NSPIRE materials including slides from each city](#) and [watch the video](#) of the Washington, D.C. session. In addition to a [Spanish language version of the slides](#), a Spanish language recording of the San Juan, Puerto Rico session will soon be posted.

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## PHAs Receive Capital Fund Program Formula Grant Awards

On February 17, 2023, HUD's Office of Capital Improvements awarded more than **\$3.2** billion in Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Fund Program (CFP) Formula Grant Awards to **2,770** housing authorities. Please visit the [FY 2023 Capital Fund Processing Information Web page](#) to view a list of awards by PHA and to review guidance on the processing of these grant awards. If you have any questions, please contact your [local HUD Field Office](#) or send an email to [PIHOCI@HUD.gov](mailto:PIHOCI@HUD.gov) with "Capital Fund Processing" as the subject.

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## HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

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### HCV Utilization: Agency Priority Goal

HUD is committed to helping PHAs fully utilize their HCV funding and excess reserves. To track progress, HUD has an Agency Priority Goal of spending 100% of the 2023 HCV funding by September 30, 2023. While we concluded 2022 with utilization at 100.02%, the current national utilization rate is approximately 92.6%, as a result of the increased appropriation for vouchers in 2023. The 2023 appropriations provided the HCV program, representing an historic 10.5% increase in funding. The final PHA-level allocations will be announced in early April. Most PHAs should expect a funding increase of around 10 percent.

We recommend PHAs use HUD's [HCV Utilization Tools](#) to make program adjustments now in anticipation of this funding increase. Notably, the Two-Year Projection Tool was recently updated with final inflation factors. Additional details regarding the 2023 HCV Funding can be found [here](#).

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## HCV Utilization Webinar Series

The HCV Utilization Webinar Series teaches HCV program administrators about the latest HCV resources, program guidance, policy changes, and best practices in HCV administration. Each month we will focus on a different topic of importance to the HCV program.

Register for the upcoming webinars below at the [HCV Program Trainings and Resources page](#).

- Review of 2023 Funding | March 16, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET
- Addressing Homelessness Through HCV | April 20, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET
- PBV Program Updates | May 18, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET
- Best Practices in VASH | June 15, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

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## The MTW HCV Utilization Dashboard

The [MTW HCV Utilization Dashboard](#) is now available. The dashboard displays the MTW PHAs' reported Housing Assistance Payments, Annual HCV Budget Authority, HCV reserves, and how MTW PHAs intend to use HCV reserves in the local community. Also, available is an MTW HCV Utilization Dashboard Guide, explaining how to access, utilize, and navigate the dashboard.

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## Special Purpose Voucher Webinar

March 8, 2023 | 1:00-2:30 PM ET

[Register here!](#)

Special Purpose Vouchers can be used strategically as part of a community's plan to end homelessness. This webinar will review all Special Purpose Voucher Programs (SPVs), and new resources. The webinar will also highlight topics such as: using SPVs collaboratively with CoCs; engaging in cross-sector partnerships; and centering equity in SPV administration and implementation. The webinar will feature a panel discussion with guest speakers.

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## HUD Announces New FYI Awards

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, HUD awarded \$12.9 million to 16 PHAs in nine states to provide housing assistance to young adults who are transitioning out of foster care and are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The funding was awarded through HUD's [Foster Youth to Independence \(FYI\) Initiative](#). FYI makes HCV assistance available to PHAs who have a partnership with public child welfare agencies. Under the program, PHAs can provide housing assistance to young adults between the ages of 18-24, who left foster care or will leave foster care in the next 90 days and are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

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## COMMUNITY & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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### Jobs Plus Mythbusters!

The Jobs Plus Initiative is a workforce program that helps your residents find jobs and increase their earned income. For the next several months, we will address misconceptions and highlight the benefits of implementing a Jobs Plus program.

This month's myth is *Site Size!*

**Myth:** Only large public housing sites are eligible for Jobs Plus.

**Fact:** Jobs Plus is not just for large public housing sites! In fact, the minimum eligibility requirement is only 100 households.

**What does this mean for you?** If you have at least 100 non-elderly households, you may be eligible to apply. Stay tuned for the FY2023 Jobs Plus NOFO's publication. And if you want to learn more about Jobs Plus, you can [sign up for Jobs Plus updates](#) and visit the Jobs Plus [website](#). You can also email us at [jobsplus@hud.gov](mailto:jobsplus@hud.gov) and browse last year's [Jobs Plus Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) page.

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### FCC Webinar: National Broadband Map

March 7, 2023 | 2:00-3:30 PM ET

[Register here!](#)

The Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map is used to identify internet service availability at individual locations nationwide. The accuracy of the data underlying the map is essential as states and Tribes receive historical levels of funding to expand broadband access in underserved communities. During this webinar, FCC staff will provide an overview of the National Broadband Map, ongoing data collection efforts, and how ConnectHomeUSA communities and other HUD-assisted organizations can ensure the map accurately reflects broadband availability in their community.

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## SPECIAL TOPICS

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### Build America, Buy America Update

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, HUD published a [Phased Implementation Waiver](#) that would delay the application of Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements until February of 2024 for some requirements and activities, with full phasing in starting in August of 2024. While BABA does not apply to any PIH grant funds that were awarded prior to February 22, 2023, the one exception to the phased implementation plan are iron and steel products purchased through

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Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grant funding after February 22, 2023. The comment period for the Phased Implementation waiver closed on March 2 and HUD expects to finalize the waiver later this month. Separately, on February 9<sup>th</sup>, OMB published a proposed rule in the [Federal Register](#) in support of implementation BABA provisions. **We strongly encourage our partners to comment on the proposed rule by the March 13, 2023 deadline.**

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### Updated 50058 Forms for Public Comment

HUD is revising Form HUD-50058, Form HUD-50058 MTW, and Form HUD-50058 MTW Expansion Family Reports. These forms solicit demographic, family profile, income, and housing information nationwide. HUD is proposing several revisions in recognition of new rules, policy changes, and current equity principles. Please review the [Federal Register notice](#) for more information on submitting public comments. **The public comment period ends on April 10, 2023.**

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### Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Proposed Rule

HUD recently published the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) [proposed rule](#), which asks organizations receiving HUD funds to take meaningful action to overcome patterns of segregation, promote fair housing, eliminate disparities in housing, and foster inclusive communities. The proposed rule identifies [questions](#) for PHAs to conduct their own fair housing analyses. [View AFFH resources here.](#) PHAs are strongly encouraged to [review the proposed rule](#) and submit comments by the **April 10, 2023** deadline.

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### Live Comment Session Scheduled for HUD's Radon Policy

March 20, 2023 | 3:00-4:30 PM ET

Advanced registration is required. [Register here!](#)

Join HUD's Office of Environment and Energy (OEE) for a presentation and live comment session on HUD's proposed *Departmental Policy for Addressing Radon in the Environmental Review Policy* (CPD Notice CPD-21-136). The draft policy would require radon consideration, testing and potentially mitigation when a PHA conducts any level of rehabilitation work (new flooring/drywall, bathroom/kitchen remodel, etc.). The draft policy can be found [here](#), along with information on how to submit comments to the public comment docket. The public comment period closes on **April 14, 2023.**

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### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Housing-Related Hazards & Lead-based Paint Capital Fund Program](#) - The purpose of the Housing-related Hazards Capital Fund (HRHCF) & Lead-based Paint Capital Fund Program (LBPCF) NOFO is to evaluate and reduce residential health hazards in public housing, including lead-based paint, carbon monoxide, mold, radon, fire safety, and asbestos. **Applications are**

**due on April 13, 2023.** Questions regarding this NOFO should be directed to the Office of Capital Improvements at [PIHOCI@hud.gov](mailto:PIHOCI@hud.gov).

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[Community Compass Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program](#) – HUD's Community Compass initiative funds technical assistance (TA) and capacity building activities for HUD's customers, including grantees, public housing authorities, and Tribes. The goal of Community Compass is to empower communities so that successful program implementation is sustained over the long term. **Applications are due March 28, 2023.** Questions regarding this NOFO should be directed to the Technical Assistance Division [communitycompass@hud.gov](mailto:communitycompass@hud.gov).

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## FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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[HUD Awards \\$12.9 Million to Prevent Homelessness Among Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care](#)

[HUD Awards \\$3.16 Billion for Critical Investments in Nation's Public Housing](#)

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## NOTICES

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Below is a list of recent PIH notices, which provide guidance, extensions, instructions, clarifications, announcements, and other policy information.

### [View PIH Notices](#)

- [PIH 2022-33](#) Updates to Flat Rent Exception Request Requirements
  - [PIH 2022-34](#) Guidance on the Rate Reduction Incentive in Public Housing
  - [PIH-2022-35](#) CARES Act Supplemental Operating Fund Close-Out Procedures
  - [PIH-2022-36](#) 2023 PH Operating Subsidy Grant Eligibility
  - [PIH-2022-37](#) Personal Property Requirements
  - [PIH-2022-38](#) Reporting Supplement to the Section 3 Final Rule
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## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

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**Worcester Housing Authority Starts Free Meal Program to Fight Food Insecurity**

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*Worcester Housing Authority CEO Alex Corrales speaks to WHA residents at the launch of the Food Matters Program*

The Worcester Housing Authority (WHA), in Worcester, MA, launched a new pilot program last fall that provides more than 12,000 meals a month to 1,000 residents who live in WHA properties. The Food Matters program provides WHA residents with "shelf stable" meals — which means the food is nonperishable and does not need refrigeration.

WHA partners with healthcare company Renaissance Medical Group, which provides the meals.

"What we realized over the last several years is that the cost of food has gone up 30 percent, yet the income of our residents has not increased by 30 percent," WHA CEO Alex Corrales said in a media release. "And we see folks who are having to ration their food and not having sufficient food to feed their family or even to take medication, which leads to an assortment of other issues."

There are additional food options being developed to expand the menu. The Food Matters program aims to reduce food insecurity among WHA residents, particularly among the elderly and disabled community.

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We hope you enjoy receiving these messages from HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing.

Public Housing Agency contact information is retrieved from HUD's Public Housing Information Center (PIC).

If your agency's contact information is out of date, please update PIC with the correct contact information.

We update our email lists from PIC twice a month, so you should see your change reflected after two weeks.

Thank you for furthering HUD's mission in the communities you serve.